

PATENT

Application Serial No. 10/633,999
Amendment dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2003
Docket No. 1232-5082

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 11 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 2, 8 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,192 to Suzuki (“Suzuki”).

The Examiner indicated that Suzuki discloses each and every element of the pending claims and cites several portions of Suzuki (e.g., col. 3, lines 40-61; col. 4, lines 3-13; and col. 4, lines 20-29) for the basis of the rejections.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended for further clarification of the invention. For example, claim 1 as amended recites among other things that the camera controller transmits the booster drive command before transmitting the lens drive command after a photometry operation. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, page 18, paragraph 62 of the original specification. Independent claims 7 and 11 have been amended similarly.

Suzuki discloses a circuit diagram in which a camera body, interchangeable lens and

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driving circuit are connected. Suzuki in Fig. 1 discloses a preventing switch 15 in series with a battery in a DC/DC converter to prevent an abnormal short circuit current flowing through the FET transistor 19 which supplies power to the driving circuit of the motor 25.

Suzuki, however, fails to show or suggest the features of claims 1, 7 and 11 as amended, i.e., transmitting the booster drive command before transmitting the lens drive command after a photometry operation. As Applicant understands it, there is no focusing action in Suzuki before the microcomputer sends a command for driving the USM motor. On the contrary, the focusing in Suzuki seems to be performed by varying the frequency of a continuous pulse given to the USM driving circuit 24 from a high to low side or vice versa after the microcomputer sends the command for starting the driving of the USM motor. See, for example, col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 13 of Suzuki.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that each of claims 1, 7 and 11 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Suzuki for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5082). **A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 22, 2004

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